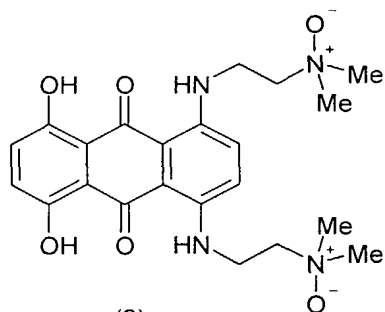


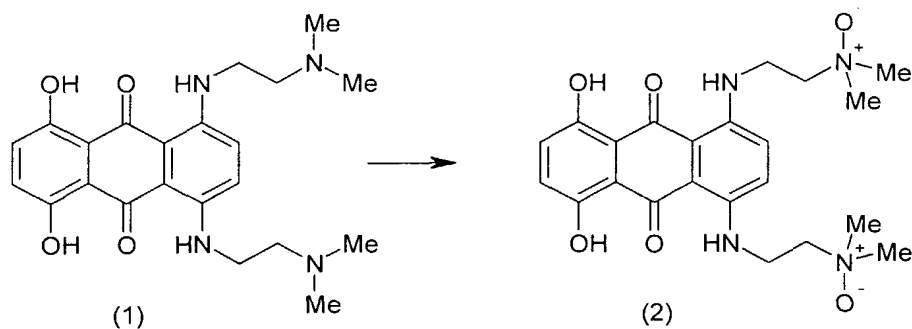
CLAIMS

1. A process for the preparation of compound AQ4N of formula (2):



5

or a salt or solvate thereof wherein the said process includes the reaction step:



where compound AQ4 of formula (1) is oxidised to compound AQ4N of formula (2) with an oxidising agent at a reaction temperature not exceeding 10°C.

2. A process according to claim 1 where the oxidising agent in the reaction step is either hydrogen peroxide, an oxaziridine, a peracid or a salt of a peracid.

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3. A process according to claim 2 where the oxidising agent is magnesium monoperoxyphthalate.

4. A process according to either claim 2 or claim 3 where  
5 the reaction is conducted at a temperature not exceeding 0°C.

5. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 4 where the reaction solvent is 1,2-propanediol, dichloromethane or an aliphatic alkyl alcohol.

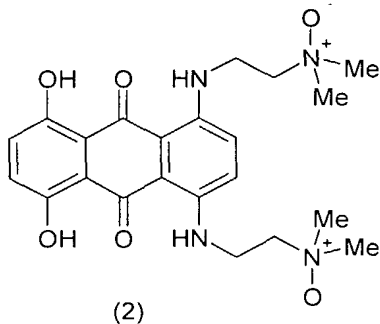
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6. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 5 for the preparation of a salt of AQ4N, where the salt of AQ4N, or a solvate thereof, is prepared by reaction of compound AQ4N of formula (2) with a solution of hydrogen chloride.

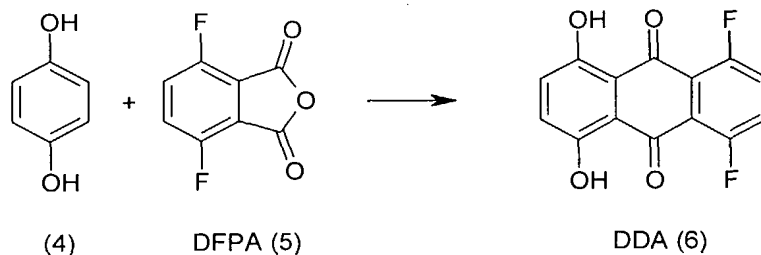
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7. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 6 where a solution containing AQ4N or a salt of AQ4N is treated with activated charcoal.

20 8. A process for the preparation of compound AQ4N of formula (2)



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that includes the reaction step:



wherein the said reaction step is conducted in a stirrable solvent at a temperature not exceeding 200°C.

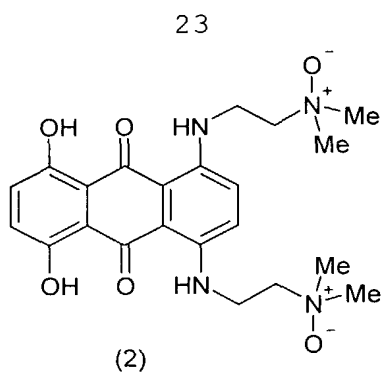
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9. A process according to claim 8 wherein the solvent is tetramethylene sulfone.

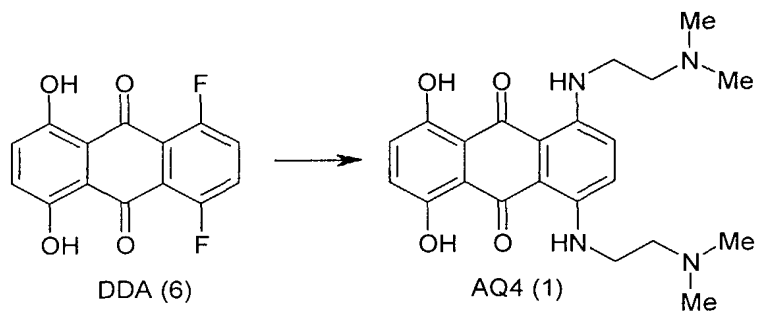
10. A process according to claims 8 or 9 where the crude compound DDA of formula (6) is treated by slurring several times with aqueous hydrochloric acid.

11. A process according to any one of claims 8 to 10 where the crude compound DDA of formula (6) is treated by adding a chelating agent.

12. A process for the preparation of compound AQ4N of formula (2)



according to claim 1 which includes the reaction step:



wherein the reaction solution of the said reaction step is  
 5 treated with an ammonium hydroxide and brine solution cooled  
 to 0°C.